

Civil Air Patrol

For Immediate Release



Delaware Valley Composite Squadron

News Release

POC: Tracie Flyn-Casey, Senior Member
Phone: 908-806-6858, Fax: 908-534-6788
Email: tracie255@aol.com

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Distress Beacon Sends Ground Team Out On Cold Rainy Night

(Pittstown, NJ) -- The Civil Air Patrol Delaware Valley Composite Squadron's ground team was activated late last night by the United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, braving the biting wind and rain, to track an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) distress beacon.

1st Lieutenant Bill Pittenger (Readington), 2nd Lieutenant Friedo Meyer (Clinton) and Senior Member Chris Casey (Readington) had just returned home from their weekly CAP meeting when Lt. Pittenger received the call from the on-call Incident Commander Lieutenant Colonel Richard Olszewski detailing the mission. Search and Rescue Satellites started to receive the signal during the evening and provided a general location for the possible emergency.

The ground team was assembled and launched by 11:30 PM and the ELT was quickly found at 12:15 AM near Sky Manor airport in Pittstown. The mission was determined to be non-distress as the plane was parked and tied down. ELT's can be activated by non-distress factors including low battery power, water damage, and even simply faulty switches. The owner of the plane was unavailable at the time to disable the device located in the craft. Later, LtCol Olszewski contacted the plane's owner to have the ELT silenced and replaced.

Civil Air Patrol, the official U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, is a civilian, volunteer, nonprofit, service organization. The unpaid members perform more than 85 percent of inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue and Coordination Center. Volunteers also take a leading role in aerospace education and conduct one of America's finest youth programs through CAP Cadet Programs.

For more information about Civil Air Patrol, please visit our squadron website at <http://delval.njwg.cap.gov/> or contact our squadron commander, Capt. Shannon Bingert at shnin6@msn.com.

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